Fleet replacement programme of AI and IA

1577. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India/Indian Airlines have started their fleet replacement and expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the airbus replaced/leased out so far and those proposed to be replaced and leased out under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India and Air India Charters Limited (AICL), a subsidiary of Air India, have submitted the following projects for approval of the Government:

AIR INDIA & AIR INDIA CHARTERS LIMITED:

(i) 18 B-737-800W aircraft for AICL.

(ii) 50 long range aircraft consisting of a mix of B 777-200 LR, B777-300ER and B787-8 for Air India.

The project envisages replacement of all the A310-300 aircraft owned and leased except 2 younger A310-300 owned aircraft which are planned to be converted to freighters.

INDIAN AIRLINES

Indian Airlines have submitted a Project Report for acquisition of 43 aircraft comprising of A-319, A-320 and A-321. The project envisages replacement of the existing fleet of A-300 and leased A-320 aircrafts.

NOC to PIO for operation of air services

1578. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of transparency with regard to investment by Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) in Air Transport Service sector;

(b) if not, the reasons for not granting No Objection Certificate (NOC) to PIO who are treated at par with NRIs;

(c) whether Government have taken the opinion of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Overseas Affairs and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion with regard to the status of PIO *vis-a-vis* NRIs;

(d) if so, the opinion of the above Ministries. Ministry-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken including amendment to Aircraft Rules, 1937 if any, to expedite the grant of NOC to PIO to operate scheduled Air Transport Service in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The existing Civil Aviation Requirements stipulate that a scheduled/non-scheduled air transport operators permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/body corporate provided, *inter-alia,* that its substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals. Hence persons of Indian Origin, who are not Indian citizens, can not be permitted to operate air transport services in terms of the present regulatory position.

(c) to (e) The matter is under examination in consultation with all concerned.

Implementation of swagat seva at airports

1579. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a facilitation service for the airlines on the lines of 'Marhaba-Welcome' in Dubai;

(b) whether Government have identified any international airports in the country to implement this service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India have decided to introduce "Swagat Seva' facility at all the major airports in India.